

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 14, 16, 18-27, 29 and 31-37 were pending in the application with Claim 1 being the independent Claim.

Claims 3-5, 14, 16, 18-27, 29, 31-33 and 36 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of that which is defined thereby.

New Claims 38-52 have been added, support for which is replete throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Claims 3-5, 14, 16, 18-27, 29 and 31-52 are in active prosecution, with Claims 3, 4, 14 and 31 being in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the removal of the claim objection advanced previously in the Office Action mailed September 10, 2007.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the removal of the Section 103 rejection advanced previously in the Office Action mailed September 10, 2007.

Applicants also acknowledge that Claims 3-4, 14, 31-33 and 35-37 would be allowable if rewritten. Applicants have taken up the Examiner on this determination.

Applicants turn now to the merits of the Action.

**Claim Objections:**

Claims 3-4, 14, 31 and 36-37 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants' amendments to Claims 3-4, 14, 31 and 36 render moot the objection.

Claims 32-33 and 35 have been objected to for the reasons given at page 5, paragraph 12 of the Action.

Applicants' amendments to Claims 32-33 and 35 render moot the objection.

**Section 112 Rejections:**

Claims 33-35 stand rejected under U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons given at page 3, paragraph 6 of the Action.

Applicants' amendments and new claims conform to the Examiner's determination of allowable claims, rendering moot the Section 112 rejection.

**Section 103(a) Rejections:**

Claims 1, 5, 16, 18-27, 29 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,329,060 (Barkac) for the reasons given at pages 4-5, paragraph 9 of the Action.

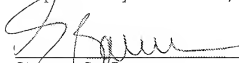
Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Barkac in view of U.S. Patent 5,916,992 (Wilt) for the reasons given at pages 5-6, paragraph 10 of the Action.

Applicants' amendments and new claims conform to the Examiner's determination of allowable claims rendering moot the Section 103(a) rejections.

Applicants request a prompt and favorable re-examination of the subject application, based on the claims remaining in prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (860) 571-5001 or by facsimile at (860) 571-5028. All correspondence should be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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